



*One of Joseph's Brothers*

Black chalk and gouache

Copy medium: graphite

Copied at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 2010

A detailed copy of one of Joseph's brothers, from Agnolo Bronzino's tapestry design "Joseph Receiving Benjamin," from his Story of Joseph cycle, ca. 1546-49. The Joseph cycle tapestries woven from Bronzino's designs were considered to be the masterpieces of Florentine tapestries. Bronzino, born Agnolo di Cosimo (1503-1572), was a Mannerist painter from Florence whose sobriquet probably came from his bronze tan. Following the Italian High Renaissance, the Mannerist movement became known for intellectual sophistication, artificial as opposed to natural elements (especially in proportion), and relative compositional tension and instability.

The story illustrated in the tapestry can be read in the Book of Genesis, especially chapters 42-45. I leave it to the viewer to extrapolate connections to perennial human concerns. Note however, that he is looking up at Joseph from his tense position on the floor.

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